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METROPOLITAN THEATRE-SUNDAY CONCERT.

New York, Sunday, February 4, 1855.

The News.

The debate upon the United States Senatorship the New York Assemb'y was resumed yesterday and continued throughout the session with unflug ging interest. We refer our readers to a report of he discussion under the proper head. In the Benate the resolution of inquiry as to the authority by which Mr. Thomas Danlap acts as Commissioner of Emig ation, was discussed and laid on the table.

Our Washington correspondent states that Dadley Mann, our parambulating Secretary of State, has sesigned his office, allowing the President until the let of March to select his successor. The recent charge in the f. reign policy of the administration is asigned as the reason for Mr. Mann's resignation.

The United States Senate was not in session yes berday. In the House the thirty-six private bills acted on in Committee of the Whole the day previens were taken up and passed. In committee, the bill extending Colonel Colt's firearm patent seven years was taken up. Our readers ore well aware of the charges of bribery and corruption that have been alleged against the parties laterested in this measure, and also that a special committee was appeinted at the last session of Congress to investigate and report upon those charges. This commitsee reported in part near the close of the last meton, and requested and obtained leave to continue their inquiry. Since then nothing has been heard from them, and the bill now comes up in the regular order of business. Mr. Pratt endorsed the honorable character of Col. Colt. and stated that there was not the slightest particle of truth in the charges alleged against him. All that Mr. Colt requires is, that Congress will give its spini n on the bill one way or another. Mr. Letcher, bairman of the Sale t Committee, would not say that Mr. Co't had acted improperly, as at the time he appeared before the Committee of Inquiry he was drupk. The testimony taken would show, he said, that Mr. Colt had no definite idea of the expendi sures of his agent. The assertion relative to Mr. Con's intox cation was confirmed by Messrs. Eldy, Ruffin, Zoilie ffer, and Eliot, but neither impeached his bener and integrity. Mr. Elgerton made a long speech in favor of the patent, and gave a history of the losses Mr. Colt has sustained in perfecting his invention; but before concluding his remarks the committee rose and the House adjourned.

The political quack doctors of Tammany Hall, who have recently organized an association on the dispensary principle, with the humane design of healing all the old sores, ruptures and fractures, simple and compound, that afflight the democratic party of this State, are to hold a grand fusion deestration meeting on the 7th of next moutajust at the proper time to catch a few of the stray sticks of political timber that will float hither va d from Washington upon the breaking up of Congress. The whole "strength of the company" will no doubt be brought out, in order to insure a full bouse, fusion or no fusion.

Tre sales of cotton on the spot yesterday reached 1,006 bales, at the extreme range of prices. Providone were without change of moment, with a fair unt of sales. Flour soil to a moderate extent, same rates. White Southern wheat sold at \$2 20. red do. at \$2 12, and white Michigan at \$2 40. Corn was scarce, and only one cargo of good Southern yellow sold affoat, at \$1. Sugars were more active, and 1,600 hbds. New Orleans and 200 do. Caba were sold at steady prices. In freights, flour was engaged at 1:. 61. for Liverpool, with 1,000 a 1,200 boxe bacon, and some lots beef and pork, at previous rates. About ten vessels were up for Californ's, two of which were recently on, and the remainder were advanced in load 1 g.

We give elsewhere some additional extracts from our California files received by the Star of the West, among which will be found a portion of Governor Bigler's message, relating to the flaances of the Stare, the condition and prospects of the mines, and the exports of gold dust during the past year. Among our extracts will also be found some interesting statistics made up at the close of the

year.

The whole number of deaths in this city during the past week, according to the official report of the Inspector, was 511, viz.: 87 men, 95 women, 172 girls and 157 boys, showing an increase of 74 over the mortality of the week pravious. This porease is mainly from complaints of the throat and lungs, diseases of the stomach and bowels, and orn children. There were 6 deaths of apoplaxy, 13 of bronchitis, 5 of congestion of the langs, 61 of consumption, 55 of inflammation of the luage, 7 of congestion of the brain, 10 of diarrhoea, 21 of dropsy a the head, 10 of dysentery, 14 of typhus fever, of disease of the heart, 13 of inflammation of the brain, 7 of pa'sy and 2 of smallpox -the first cases of this disease reported for several weeks. There were 11 deaths from externaand violent causes. Of the total of deaths 323 were children under ten years of age, and of this number 41 died of convalsions, 17 of croup, 10 of debility, 34 of scarlet fever, 6 of hooping cough, 26 of marasmus, 8 of measles, and 3 of testiling here were also 7 premature births, and 34 cases of stillborn. The following is the classification of discases:-Bones, joints, &c., 4; brain and nerves, 108; generative organs, 5; heart and blood vessels 14: lunge, throat, &c., 166; old age, 4, skin and eruptive fevers, 49; stillborn and premature births. 41; stomach, bowels and other digestive organs 79; uncertain stat and general fevers, 39; urinary organs, 2. There were 165 deaths in the public in stirutions-66 at the Emigrant Mospital, and 14 at the Almshouse. The pativity table gives 313 nasives of the United States, 78 of Ireland, 62 of Germany, 9 of England, and the balance distributed

among various European countries. United States frigate Sabine was launched from the Brooklyn Navy Yard yesterday forenoon. An account of the spe table, and a history of the reasel, which dates back as far as 1823, is given

We publish to day letters from our correspondents Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Chicago, Wheeling, Jacksonville and Boston. They contain variety of useful and interesting information re-

specting political and social movements. We also letters, received by the last steamer from our Paris or respondents, and an article from a London jo arnal on the Sound duties of the Danish government_s question that is occupying the ear nest at ention of commercial men in both hemispheres, and which is now a subject of investigation

an's inquiry in Congress.

A mass meeting of workingmen was held last night in Hester street, to hear the report of a committee who had been sent to Washington to urge on Congress the propriety of taking measures for the immediate relief of the unemployed. The commit-tee made their resort through Mr. John Commer ford, who detailed at some length the result of his interviews with the President and several members of Congress. He was well received, but nothing was done. It will be seen that the resolutions ould gize President Pierce. The outline of a new politicel organization was presented, and a series of lectores and other means of influencing the public de termined on.

The steamship Union, from Havre and Cowes, arrives at this port last night. Sae left the latter port on the 18th ult.

A fire occurred at No. 128 Varick street last night, during which one of the lamstes of the dwelling, named Mrs. Belden, was burned to death. An account of this dreadful catastrophe is given

Progress of Democracy in Europe

The Africa brings us news of the submission to the Spanish chambers of the new constitution. It is strikingly democratic in its character: its essential teatures being liberty of conscience and of the press; establishment of the national guard; annual meetings of the Cortes; abolition of confiscation and capital punishment for political offences; subjection of the army to the control of the representatives of the people; and the right of the Cortes in case of need to appoint a regent for the kingdom It is assuredly difficult to conceive a monarchical constitution more republican in its character than this. The measure of authority which is left to the monarch is hardly worth mention-

Spain has been long aiming at democracy. As far back as the reigns of the two last Carloses, the populace of Madrid, Barcelona. Cadiz and other large cities, was noted for its turbulent and riotous character. On several occasions it forced the court to bend to its will; and once even threatened the throne itself. When the wretched Carlos and still more wretched Ferdinand threw themselves into Napoleon's arms, the "common people" of the Spanish cities sternly refused to submit to the French yoke, and gave Joseph Bonaparte and the generals plenty of work. During the long wars which followed, there was scarcely less sympathy between the French troops and the Spanish populace than between the latter and their English alties. The British sought to replace the Bourbons on the throne; the Spaniards demanded democratic liberty. It was in the midst of this collision of interests that the democratic constitution of 1812 was promulgated. This charter guaranteed political and individual liberty; but as a: that time, the great danger to be apprehended seemed to be the centralization of power in the capital which had ruined the French republic-the Spaniards sought, at Cadiz, to guard against this peril by investing the communal governments with unusual powers. In seeking to avoid one mistake they fell into the opposite one. Their communal governments were little independent powers, who did nothing but quarrel together and thwart each other.

At Ferdinaud's restoration, he would have nothing to say at first to the constitution of 1812, and strove for a long time to govern on the plan of his ancestors. Finding this would not ans ar, and terrifled by the outbreak of insurrections, he consented in his false, cowardly, treacherous way to accept the democratic charter of Cadiz, and formally promulgated it in the towns. This did not prevent his doing his best to nullify its provisions until the French. under the Duke d'Angoulême, came to his assistance, and he could venture to trample his oath and the charter under foot together.

For fourteen years the Spanish democracy was silent and powerless. During the last balf of this period, civil war raged and served as a safety-vent for the animal spirits of the patriots But in 1837, the liberals who supported Isabella's claims forced attractive novelties and celebrities. Barnum Queen Christina to resuscitate and confirm the charter of 1812 at La Granja. This concession to the progressistas led ultimately to the revolution of 1843, when the liberal constitution was again altered or revoked, and Narvaez succeeded Espartero in power. From 1843 up to the present time, democratic theories have been contraband in Spain. They are now revived, it seems, by the Espartero ministry, and are in a fair way of again becoming part of the law of the laud.

Simultaneously with this progress of demecracy in Spain, a most startling change is taking place in the tone of public sentiment in England. The striking freedem of the British press has already attracted much attention in this country. Partly in consequence of the fermentation of animal spirits consequent upon the war, and partly from the conspicuous incapacity of the present ministry, the press has in fact taken the control of affairs out of the hands of the government, and is driving before it Queen, Cabinet, Parliament and people in headlong confusion. This stupendous power is being used by the London Times for the interests of the democracy, and to oppose and assail the nobles. Already we have seen the Times expose the pitiable meanness of the rule of the Horse Guards which forbids generals from noticing in their despatches the bravery or good conduct of private soldiers. Passing from this to other branches of the military service, it has attacked with proper virulence the absurdity of the present system of favor, pa'ronage and purchase by which commissions in the British army are obtained, and shown how the democratic plan on which the French army is managed is the true and only cause of the great superiority of Convobert's force to Lord Raglan's. These are only two points: many others might be mentioned, which indicate most plainly the powerful democratic tendencies of the leading organ

of British opinion. Nor is the phenomenon wholly confined to England. In France and Germany similar, though less decided symptoms of a renaissance of democracy have been manifested. Since the war began, the tone of the press both at Paris and in Germany has been freer than it ever was since 1848.

It is clear in fact that all over Europe a nowerful subterranean process is going on, dismised here in the shape of a foreign war, there in that of civil distension but tending everywhere to the Establishment of republican theories if not republican institutions. Should peace supervene in the East, for instance, the

Western governments would soon find their hands full at home. In England people would call for a reconstruction of the army on a sound and sensible basis, no regard being paid to wealth or rank, but merit being the only basis for premetion. In France the army which usually takes a leading part in French revolutions would call for a free press; and the Emperor would be forced to grant it. Some of the democratic seeds scattered by this war would take root in Germany, and there again we should find them springing up. In Spain the government itself would have found itself obliged to take the initiative in granting democratic institutions to the nation. All over the continent, the proplamation of peace would be but the signal for civil

The Chevaller Wikoff-His Public Career as Showman, Journalist and Diplomat—The New York Herald and the Loudon Times.

The official certificates brought forward by the Chevalier Wikoff, in the "lamentable comedy" of his adventures with Miss Gamble, establishing his late diplomatic association with Lord Palmerston, have proved to be exceedingly perplexing to the incredulous directory of the London Times. They are evidently discussing a mystery in discussing Wikoff, or Nichoff, as they blunderingly Russianize him; and yet, in tacking him on to the New York HERALD as an editorial diplomat of the Czar, they betray a knowledge of the real character of the Chevalier, which could hardly have been derived from conjecture. They must have seen their man, or consulted H. U. Addington, or Mr. Bates, or the diplomatic Mrs. Grote, or. peradventure, the cruel and intractable Miss Gamble berself, in anticipation of the "Courtship and its Consequences."

In order, however, to enlighten our London cotemporaries respecting the diplomatic office of Wikoff under my Lord Palmerston, and his present alleged engagement in New York as an emissary of Russia, we deem it worth the candle to give an outline of his whole public career, from his departure hence beyond the seas, some twenty odd years ago, with a fortune in his pocket, in quest of adventures, down to the unfortunate issue of his Italian campaigns in pursuit of the hand, or "half the income," of the incomprehensible and inflexible Miss Gamble.

Some twenty odd years ago, then, the Chevalier Wikoff, of Philadelphia, possessed of a collegiate education, a fortune, youth, a good figure, talents, confidence, ambition, and a fix d resolution to enjoy himself and make a noise in the world, went over to Europe. After a time he returned, bringing with him the embodiment of a prodigious sensation in the person of Fanny Elssler. Under his managerial protection she danced all over the United Statescreating a perfect furore, and coining money by thousands in every enraptured city. It is difficult to say, even now, when the softening influences of time ought to insure an impartial judgment-it is hard to say whether the glorious legs of Fanny, the danseuse, or the wonderful voice of Jenny, the nightingale, carried off the premium in this country, in public enthusiasm We rather think that Wikoff and Fanny were the more rapturously received. while, owing to the subsequent discovery of the California gold mines, just in the nick of time for the nightingale, we guess that Barnum and Jenny gathered up much the larger contributions of solid cash.

This victorious enterprise with "the Elssler" gives us the first professional vocation of Wikoff. It was the profession of a showman, à la Barnum, and had be been equally successful in his subsequent characters of journalist, diplomat, and lover, he might now be the envied master of a winter palace in Paris, a summer villa on Lake Como, "a shooting box on the Upper Mississippi," and the happy husband of the lost heiress, with all her income, said to be not less than the interest of one hundred thousand pounds sterling. But in dropping the showman to become journalist, Wikoff committed a fatal blunder. His success with "the Elssler" indicated his proper calling; and he should have followed it up, as Barnum did his European mission with Tom Thumb, with other acted wisely. He had dabbled a little in journelism himself, but it was not his calling, and he abandoned it. Wikoff should have done the same thing. Pity he didn't.

He became a journalist. He set up a demoeratic paper in New York, but it fell through Democratic party papers always do fall through in New York. He next tried the higher branches of his party politics in the Democratic Monthly Review. But toat, too, proved a losing investment, and he sold the concern at a sacrifice. Next, we believe, be made a dashing experiment in the mercantile line, under the attractive title of the Canton Tea Company; but for the want of a good agent at Canton, or some other cause, this en-

terprise also proved a failure. But our clastic and ambitions Chevalier was not the man "to give it up so." In 1849 the reaction from the European revolutionary revulsions of 1818, opened up an inviting field for extra diplomacy at London and Paris, comprehending the newly developed important relallons of the Old World with the New. This was, perhaps, the true field for the talents, experience, and sagacity of Wikoff-the field of supplemental diplomacy. So he reappeared in Europe; and having previously visited Louis Napoleon in his prison at flam, as a sympathizer in his misfertunes, the Chevalier had secured a friend of the first importance for his diplomatic debut. He commenced writing on political affairs, in the French journals, in connection with the political institutions of the United States and the policy of France, keeping his eye upon Louis Napoleon. He was introduced, at Paris, to the British legation, and from his flattering representations to them of the policy of manufacturing public opinion through the newspaper press on both sides of the Atlantic, in behalf of more intimate relations of friendship between France, England and the United States, than existed, he was commended to the special attention of Lord Palmerston. He crossed the channel accordingly, had one or several confidential interviews with Palmeraton at his country seat of Broadlands, and the result was, as we understand it, the employment of our Chevaller by the British Foreign Office, at five hundred pounds a year, to write for the newspaper press-English, French and American-in furtherance of the beneficent object of everlasting friendship between France, England and the United States.

In this philanthropic field of daty, Wikoff, we believe, brought out a series of diplomatic essays and arguments in La Presse at Paris, and in a paper or two at New Orleans and elsewhere. Pessibly he may have over-colored the importance of this novel element of diplomacy possibly, in an innocent way, he may have ex-ggerated the weight of his personal influence over the public journals of the Unit d States. Whatever may be the facts, the escapade with Miss Gamble, and its unhappy denouement, alruptly closed these diplomatic newspaper functions of Wikoff, and threw him at length again upon the world, considerably out of pocket, but with much additional useful experience in the fickleness of fortune and the uncertainties of heiresses and international newspaper diplomacy.

Successively a showman, a journalist, a diplomat, and a lover in pursuit of an heiress, to a dungeon, Wikoff, like gold refined by fire, emerges at last in the pleasing rôle of the laughing philosopher. His "courtship" has also opened a new mine for fame and fortune. It sells better than Barnum or Greeley-much better. Barnum's book is excessively valgar-the worst of his humbugs; Greeley's is flat and stale; but Wikoff's courtship is piquant, rom intic, and rich in the caprices of lovers, and the mysteries of the secret service fund of the Foreign Office. Another book, however, may soon be expected from our laughing philosopher. especially devoted to his diplomatic career and services under the auspices of Louis Napoleon and Lord Palmerston.

With the publication of this book our mystified London cotemporaries will probably discover the exact extent of Wikoff's alleged editorial relations at this time with the NEW YORK HERLID as a Russian emissary. The Czar, we are quite sure, will not object to the disclosure, and we desire it. It is quite likely that the HERALD was included in the diplomatic progromme with Lord Palmerston, though we confess that we have had as yet no information from either Wikoff or Mr. Addington upon the subject. Enough. We hope that the foregoing sketch of the public history of the author of the "Courtship," in the interval to the publication of his diplomatic engagements and services under Palmerston and Louis Napoleon, will serve to quiet the apprehensions of the London Times concerning the present alleged copartnership of James Gordon Bennett, the Emperor Nicholas and the Chevaller Wikoff in the editorial management of the New York HERALD. What is the latest from Sebastopol?

GENERAL WILSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, STILL AN ABOLITIONIST .- WHAT SAY THE KNOW NO THINGS ?- Read the proceedings, in another part of this paper, of a late anti-slavery meeting in Boston-the speech of Anson Burlingame, and its full endorsement by General Henry Wilson-and it will be manifest to every mind that the first man elected by the Know Nothings to the United States Senate is the most fanatical and implacable abolitionist ever sent to that body. He endorses all that Garrison or Abby Kelly Foster could urge in opposition to Southern slavery, excepting the immediate dissolution of the Union.

What does this mean? It looks like an alliance between the Know Nothings and the abolitionists. Is it so? What says the State Council of Massachusetts? Let them speak, or forever hereafter keep to the north of Mason & Dixon's line. The case looks as bad for the Know Nothings as Seward's re-election. In connection with it, if effected, this manifesto of Wilson as the Senator of the Massachusetts Know Nothings, makes them a sectional party at once. The South can have nothing to do with them. The Know Nothing State Councils of the North must speak on the slavery question, or be ranked with the anti-slavery coalition. They must repudiate Wilson, or be themselves repudiated. The existence of the Know Nothings as a national party hangs upon this question of slavery. Their first elected Senator is a boastful abolitionist of the Giddings stripe. Is he a good and accepted Know Nothing, or has he deceived them? The Presidency is closed to the order if they permit this Wilson to stand as their exponent in the Senate at Washington. His manifesto will be a bombshell in Virginia. Let Henry A. Wise read it to the people as the proclamation of the Know Nothing Senator elect from Massachusetts to the South.

What say the Massachusetts State Council, and other Northern Councils? If they are in league with the anti-slavery factions, their race is run.

THE LATEST NEWS. BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Important from Washington.

RESIGNATION OF DUDLEY MANN, ASSISTANT SECRE-TARY OF STATE. WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1855. It has transpired that A. Dudley Maun has resigned his position as Assistant Secretary of State, to take t any time before the first of March. It is understood his resignation grows out of the Soulé affair, the Ostend conference, and the changed policy of the administration as regards Cubs. The President does not wish to accept Mann's resignation; but so far, the latter is firm in his determination.

WASHINGTON, Feb. C, 1855. COLLECTOR REDFIELD'S RESIGNATION --- APPOINT MENTS-THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE EXHIBITION.

The Metropolitan Mechanics' Institute Exhibition opening on Thursday next, is everflowing with goods nere elegant and numerous than at any previous suc cessful exhibition. The time for the reception of compe ting goods has been extended to Monday, and those for exhibition merely, till Wednesday evening. The North has contributed largely in choice specimens of artizan-

ship.
It is represented by interested parties that Collector Reffield, of New York, has never intimated a desire to be relieved from the duties of his office, and that the ru-

more to the contrary are false.

John B. Miller, of New York, has been nominated to the Senate to be Secretary of Legation to Peru, in place of James C Marriot, resigned. The appointment of a successor to Mr. Pleasanton, the

Fifth Auditor, has been made by the President, but not vet announced. UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Washington, Feb. 3, 1856. Monday—No. 60. Carrington va. Srig and Pratt. Tuesday, 6th—No. 61. Ship Panther va. the United States. No. 62. South vs. State of Marylant. Wednesday, 7th—No. 63. Ternana, administrator, vs. Eve. Thursday, 8th—No. 64—Arkbritton va. Woodward.

Destructive Fire near Quebec. MONTREAL, Feb. 3, 1855. The west wing of the Asylum at Beaupres, near Que-

ec, was entirely destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The institution contained nearly two hundred patients, none of whom were injured. The damage is estimated at \$12,500.

The Fire in New Orleans.

New Oursans Feb. 2, 1855. The loss by the fire in this city last night amounted to \$129,000, and is fully covered by insurance.

Steamship Movements.
THE PALCON AT CHARLESTON, SHORT OF COAL.
CHARLESTON, Feb. 2, 1855
The steamship Falcon from Havana, bound to New
York, has put into this port short of coal.

THE NASHVILLE AT CHARLESTON.
CHARLESTON, Feb. 2, 1855.
The steamship Nashville has arr vel at this port, forty six hours from New York.

Two Persons Drowned while Skatin Рипларилента. Feb. 3, 1855 This afternoon, as a party were shating on the Schuyl-kill river, above Fairmount, the ice gave way, and Earle S. Shinn, a druggist on the corner of Broad and Spruce, and Miss Russell, his wife's sister, were drowned. At the time the accident occurred, he was skating along, and pushing Mass Russell on a sled. A large crowd were

> ssistance in time to save them. The bodies have been Burning of a Chair Manufactory.

present, and saw the accident, but were unable to rende

Bosros, Feb. 3, 1855.
A fire broke out this morning in the furniture manuscript of Level 1. factory of Joseph L. Ross, in Hawkins street, damaging the building and stock to the amount of twelve thousand dollars. Insurance four thousand dollars.

The Weather and Business at the West. The weather here continues very cold, but all the railroads are open except the Chicago and Mississippi. A small portion of the lilinois Central road has not, however, been heard from.

Cincinnari, Feb. 3, 1856.
The weather here is very cold. Navigation is still suspended. Business is very dull.

Physique. 1.

Pitranuag, Feb 3, 1885.
The Ohio river is still closed up here. The weather is very cold. The thermometer stands at 16 degrees above sers.

BALIFAX, Feb. 3, 9 A: M.—A heavy snow storm set in here last evening, which lasted during the night. This here last evening, which lasted during the night. Tais morning it has the appearance of rain. NT. Jony, Feb. 3, 9 A. M.—Soow fell to the depth of three inches last night. The weather is fine and cold

three inches last night. The weather this morning.

SACKVILE, Me., Feb. 3, 1855.—About six inches of snow fell here last night. The weather is clear and cold to-day. Calais, Feb. 2, 9 A. M.—The weather is moderate, and the wind northeast. It commenced snowing early this morning, and the snow is now about three inches deep.

Eastroof, Feb. 3, 9 A. M.—It is snowing hard here, the apprehensive of snow have been a continuate wind.

with a bortheast wind.

Bancor, Feb. 3, 9 A. M.—Three inches of snow have fallen here this morning.

PORTLAND, Fob. 3, 9 A. M.—One inch of snow has fallen here. The weather is moderating, and it is now

fallen nere. The weather here is moderate; snew fell for about an hour this morning. The sun is now shining brightly.

Springfield, Feb. 3, 1 P. M.—It has been snowing brightly here for the past hour. The weather is cold.

PRILADELPHIA STOCK BOARD.

PRILADELPHIA STOCK BOARD.

The money market is easy to-day. Stocks are firm; Reading, 37%; Morris Canal, 14%; Long Island Railroad, 14%; Ponna. Railroad, 43%; Penna. fives, 87%.

New Orleans, Feb. 2, 1855.

Our cotton market has been unchanged to-day, with sales of 5,500 bales. The week's business foots up-60,000 bales, and the stock on hand is 200,000 bales. The receipts at this port are 60,000 bales ahoad of the same date last year. Sterling exchange is quoted at 5½ a 7½ per cent premium. In Rio coffee, the week's sales have reached 10,500 bags, at 8½c. a 9½c. The stock now on hand is 77,500 bags.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 2, 1855.

Our cotton market is unsettled and favors bayers. The sales to day were 2,500 bales, at prices ranging from 6½c. a 9½c.

AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Private Bills Passed in the House

THE COLT PATENT EXTENSION.

VALUE OF AFTER DINNER TESTIMONY.

Col. Colt's Social Eccentricities.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE, £c., &c., &c.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

House of Representatives. WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1855.

PRIVATE BILLS PASSED. The House passed the thirty-six private bills which were considered in committee yester lay.

THE COLT PATENT EXTENSION—INTERESTING DEBATE—COL.

the private calendar, with Mr. Greenwood in the chair, and the first bill on the list being that for extending the Colt patent, for improvements in fire arms, seven years.

Mr. Prox (dem.) of New York, moved it be passed over

Colt patent, for improvements in fire arms, seven years. Mr. Pr.cx (dem.) of New York, moved it be passed over informally.

Mr. Prastr (dem.) of Conn., by unanimous consent, made an explanation, and said this matter had been magnified into such importance as to call for a select committee, which is now acting It was one in which he had a personal interest. (Laughter) By this he meant that the reputation of an intimate personal acquaintance is involved. (Renewed laughter) Colonel Colt has a right, as an American, to apply to Congress for what he believes to be just. He has been charged indirectly, if not directly, with doing what is unbecoming an honorable man—such as sing improper means and outside influence, and attempting to bribe members of this House. Colonel Colt is as honorable as man as any on this floor—and there is not the eligatest particle of truth in the charges. If any gentleman has been bribed let him rise in his place (laughtor), either in the way of pistols, money, or anthing else. He (Pratt) would say, with all respect for the Select Committee, that he looked on this whole movement as a reflection on the character of the House. He did not know a gentleman here who could thus be bribed.

A VOICE—It so, let him show himself.

Mr. Prastr, resuming—As to Mr. Dickerson, Mr. Colt's agent, he did not believe he would be guity of sonduct unbecoming an honorable man. All that Mr. Colt asts

A voice—it so, set him show himself.

Mr. Pravit, resuming—As to Mr. Dickerson, Mr. Colt's agent, he did not believe he would be guilty of sonduct unbecoming an honorable man. All that Mr. Colt asks is that Congress will give its opinion, one way or the other, on this bill.

A question of order sprung up as to whether the bill could be set aside, but the Committee refused to do so, by a vote of ayes, 29; nose not counted.

Mr. Camperit, (free soil) of Oble, said the charges fixed the responsibility in no particular quarter. He had seen nothing to throw corruption on any person. He was not prepared to believe, not even to suspect, any member of the Hones was no base and lost to nonor as to involve his character in such a way. He had never seen, nor expected to see, Mr. Colt, but was in favor of the bill, because he believed it to be best for the country to renew Colt's patent. He had one of Colt's revolvers made a present to him in 1843, in New Orleans, by a dear friend, now deceased. He found it a good lostrument, answering his purpose very well. When at home he amused bimself with it shooting rats. He hoped he might rever find occasion to use it for a more serious purpose.

Mr. Language (down) of Va., in realy to Mr. Pratt.

Mr. Lerenze, (dem.) of Va., in reply to Mr. Pratt, observed he cid not say Mr. Coit hast acted properly, because it was a notorious fact that at the time he appeared before the select committee he was drunk, and his mind obfuseated. If grattenen would take the trouble to examine his testimony, they would find he had no definite ideas of the sum of money his agent had distributed.

trouble to examine his testimony, they would find he had no definite ideas of the sum of money his agent had distributed.

Mr. Chamerlan, (dem.) of Ind.—Do these questions and answers constitute a part of the written report?

Mr. Letchen—No, str. It would have been a hard matter to deguerractype the testimony of a drunken nam. He read from the testimony on order to show that lickerson had an unlimited power to draw on Cost, and that sitteen thousand dollars on the books of Cott's clerk (Joes yn) were unaccounted for an i further, that the money was spent to help the bill along through Congress, as was suspected, though Mr. Discersor refused to answer as to the use of the money, caying the committee had no right to look hat his private matters.

Mr. Pratt—Why does the gentleman place any confidence in the testimony of Mr. Cott, if he was drunk?

Mr. Letchen—The committee was convened for his conven nece, and he ought not to have come before it in that condition. I have no confidence in his statement.

Mr. Walen, (dem.) of N. Y. (Mr. Letcher yielding the foor)—During the last election in New York there were three candidates for Governer and three for Lieutenand the cotten is in the gallery. I would ask that a committee was not the sin the gallery. I would ask that a committee be sent to General Augustus Adolphus Serogzs, in viting hom to a seat on the floor. (Laughter.)

Mr. Letchen—Is it expected I shall defer my remarks until the committee so out? (Laughter.)

The Chariffan (Mr. Walsh)—We are in committee new.

Mr. Walsh—Send the Sergeant at-Arms.

now.

Mr. Warsu-Send the Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. Larmest concluded by raying the bill should not be acted on pending the investigation of the scient committee.

militee.
Mr. Phart remarked be certainly understood Mr. Letcher to say, in private conversation, that there was nothing dishonorable in Mr. Colt's conduct. Mr. Colt was sick, and had just cone out of his chamber when he appeared before the committee. his friends then fearing for his life. He was surprised Mr. Lotcher had accused hom of being drunk.
Mr Larosan—The gentleman says Mr. Colt was not crunk. I appeal to my colleagues on the select committee.

crush. I appeal to my colleagues on the select committee.

Mr. Eddy, (dem.) of Red.—I regarded Mr. Colt as intolicated. I do not know any other member who came to a different conclusion or expressed a different opinion.

Mr. RUFRIN, (dem.) of N. C.—I so considered him.

Mr. ZOLINGYTER, (whig) of Tenn.—The unpreasion on my mind, while I believed Mr. Colt intolicated, was, that he was in the hands of men who might be charpers, and who would ruin him, but I believed him to be an henorable man.

Mr. WHERLER, (dem.) of N. Y.—Mr. Colt was to have been examined in the morning, but the committee being eccupied, his examination was postponed till evening. He appears before the committee directly after dinner, and see med to be sightly excited.

Mr. Fluor, (mbig) of Mass.—I feel bound to say what I am about to say, and yet cannot corroborate to the full what the gentleman from Virginia (Lotober) said. I would not examine a drumber man. I should be both to examine a man in the technical sense intoxicated, and yet the witness was not in a full proper state of mind.

(Laughter.) It is right to say that, after the examination was completed, I fest constrained to believe that Mr. Colt was a man of honor. He said nothing to shake my confidence in bis inner integrity. I thought he was in unfortunate hands, and might well exclaim, "Save me from my friends." The examination was conducted in the afternoon.

Mr. Turusron, (cem.) of R. I.—I was present during the examination of Mr. Colt. He seemed to be somewhat excited—whether with disease or drink I don't know.

Mr. Lercment—I should not have made any reference to this, but for the allusions of the gentleman from Connecticut (Pratt).

Mr. Excurent, (dem.) of Ohio, doubted not that the members of the House sometimes get a little confused after the dimer heur, (laughter.) and therefore ought not to be so perticular. The action of the Select Committee mounted to nothing. It will sink into forpetfulness, as have all other investigations. The committee was notoriously a failure. In 1831, Mr. Colt invented an operating arm, but, owing to the difficulties in constructing such a weapon as could be used with safety, did not receive a paient until 1836. Mr. Colt and his friends were incorporated by the New Jersey Legislature in that year as a patent arms manufacturing company, with an authorized espital of three hundred thousand dollars, two hundred and thirty thousand dollars of which was subscribed. The company went into operation, but the capital was exhausted by the great difficulty in manufacturing the arms. After six years the armory was sold by a decree of the Court, leaving Mr. Colt recommerced on anufacturing, in a small way, arms for the government. From evidence presented, he has invested all he could command, between three and four hundred thousand dellars, to perfect his plan jand machinery, so as to produce a perfect arm, which would not be worth one-fifth the sum for any other use. Imitations of Colt's pistols are all forged cast steel, perfect in altheir parts, and fully reliable. Such arms as he manufactures cannot be made

Our Washington Correspo WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1858. The Army Bill-Gwin's Pacific Railroad Bill-The

French Spoliation Claims—Report of the Secretary of War—The Militia Force of the United States—The Kinney Expedition—Why Attorney General Cushing Op-poses the Espedition—Interesting Point Before the Su-preme Court—Illness of Mrs. Gen. Houston, dc., dc. The Senate of the United States was engaged the whole day yesterday—and is still engaged to-day—in the discussion on the Army Appropriation bill. It seems hard to bring this debate to a close and to get a vote on the question, although but a few days more of the session remain. Just as it was supposed, yesterday, the Senate was ready for the vote, Gen. Cass rose and announced that due regard to his reputation required that he should be heard on this bill before casting his vote, and accordingly he addresses the Senate to-day; imu ately after which it is expected to take the vote, will result in favor of four additional regiments

ately after which it is expected to take the vote, which will result in favor of four additional regiments to the army.

Early next week, Mr. Gwin will report his Pacific Railroad bill, providing for a single load on the Southern or Texas route; and from the conditions expressed by the members of the Special Committee, composed of the ablest men in the Senate, I am induced to believe that this bill will pass the Senate, though it may be lost in the lower House for the want of time.

The French Spoliation bill is still in a critical condition—having to pass the Senate still in a critical condition—having to pass the Senate real and executive ordeals. A powerful move will be made to defeat it in the Senate. An effort will be made to amoud it, first, by providing that no assignce shall receive the benefit of its provisions; that failing, the next effort will be to limit assignces to the amount actually paid by them. After worrying through the Senate, should the bill survive the laber, then it has to face the veto prerogative of the President. I hear the question frequently asked, "Will the President veto the bill?" I am inclined to the belief, from all that I can gather, that he will not. Gen. Bayly, who is the confidential personal friend of Gen, Pierce, has evidently received assurances from him that he will not veto the bill, or he (Gen. B.) would never have devoted so much time and lasor to securing its passage. The House of Representatives is still progressing with

The greatest apprehension is as to its probable defeat in the scenate.

The House of Representatives is still progressing with the Territorial business. Some soarp sparring occurred yesterday between Col. Benton, of Missouri, and Mr. Richardson, of Illinots, on the Subterranean Telegraph bill, though not resulting, as the fraces did the day before between Mr. Farley and Gen. Lane, in blows. It was only a war of words and as amuting as harmless. I am pleased to say that that the difficulty between Mr. Farley and Gen. Lane has been amicably settled. They are both brave, sensible gentlemen, having nothing to gain by a fight, and losing nothing by an honorable admission of error.

The Secretary of War transmitted to Congress yesterday his annual report aboving the effective militia force of the United States, as fo lows.

Infantry—Commissioned officers. 45,022
Non commissioned and privates 1,769,335
Cavalry—Commissioned and privates 12,639
Riffemen—Commissioned officers 1,953
Non-commissioned officers 3,2456

Aggregate......2,401,663

CORRESPONDENCE OF OTHER PAPERS.
[Correspondence of the North American.]

New More on Spain—War Menage Anticipated—Gen.

The effect of the recently developed change of policy towards spain as the subject of very earnest discussion by gentlemen of all parties in Courses. A demand is to be made upon that government such as she never has complied with, and probably never will, until compolled by superior force, spanish obstinacy is almost a proverb. It is intended to require of he not only material indumnity for aggressions, but a surrender on what may be casidered the point of honor, namely, an apology and reparation for elights and insuling to make a demand of this character, without taking effective measures for its enforcement, it may be prosumed that, it rejected, the President will at once employ the military and navel force of the United Status to vindicate the rights of the country. The means to be employed are obvious. They are repricals upon Spanish commerce, and a blockade of the Island of Cuba. It is, therefore, nevitable that a wear message? a sould be sent to Congress during the present seesaon, asking authority, to gether with the means to support the representations which Mr Breckenfedge will be instructed to make. The instructions of the Missigan Legislature to her Scanters relative to the Mescuri compromise and the Newtonias act, give General Case a great deal of trouble. They not only speak is terms of disapproval of his past course upon the questions involved in the latter measure, but they direct hum to bring in a bill for the restaration of the compromise, and to urge its adoption by his voice and vote. O course the General will disober, for the democratic doctrine of obedience to instructions opplies only to case in which democratic lengillatures for the factor of obedience to instructions opplies only to case in which democratic lengillatures for the democratic destrine of obedience to instructions opplies and the season is which democratic lengillatures for the state of the outers of this h